

Serial No. 10/630,499  
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**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior listings.

1. (Currently Amended) An axle assembly comprising:
- a first axle shaft defined substantially along a first axis of rotation;
  - a second axle shaft defined substantially along said first axis of rotation;
  - at least one electric motor defined substantially along a second axis of rotation transverse to said first axis of rotation, said at least one electric motor for driving both said first and said second axle shafts;
  - a first stage gear reduction driven by said at least one electric motor, said first stage gear reduction including a drive gear driven about said second axis of rotation by said at least one electric motor and a driven gear driven by said drive gear;
  - a second stage gear reduction driven by said first stage gear reduction, said second stage gear reduction including a pinion gear driven by said driven gear and a ring gear driven about said first axis of rotation by said pinion gear, said first axle shaft extending through said ring gear; and
  - a differential driven by said second stage gear reduction, said first axle shaft and said second axle shaft driven by said differential; and
  - ~~a third stage gear reduction driven by said ring gear and coupled to said differential.~~
2. (Currently Amended) ~~The axle assembly as recited in claim 1, An axle assembly comprising:~~
- ~~a first axle shaft defined substantially along a first axis of rotation;~~
  - ~~a second axle shaft defined substantially along said first axis of rotation;~~
  - ~~at least one electric motor defined substantially along a second axis of rotation transverse to said first axis of rotation, said at least one electric motor for driving both said first and said second axle shafts, wherein said at least one electric motor comprises a first~~